

MYSTERIOUS ADVENTURES

DEC. No. 23



AT LAST WE FOUND
A TOMB THAT HAS NEVER
BEEN OPENED-- I HOPE
IT IS INTACT-- OH, NO--
THE **MUMMY!**..

IT'S
ALIVE!

CHEW IMPROVED FORMULA CHEWING GUM! REDUCE

Up to **5 lbs.** a Week With **Dr. Phillips Plan**

Reduce to a slimmer more graceful figure the way Dr. Phillips recommends—without starving—without missing a single meal! Here for you *Now*—a scientific way which guarantees you can lose as much weight as you wish—or *you pay nothing!* No Drugs, No Starvation, No Exercises or Laxatives. The Amazing thing is that it is so easy to follow—simple and safe to lose those ugly, fatty bulges. Each and every week you lose pounds safely until you reach the weight that most becomes you. Now at last you have the doctors' new modern way to reduce—To acquire that dreamed about silhouette, an improved slimmer, exciting more graceful figure. Simply chew delicious improved Formula Dr. Phillips Kelpidine Chewing Gum and follow Dr. Phillips Plan. This wholesome, tasty delicious Kelpidine Chewing Gum contains Hexitol, *reduces* appetite and is sugar free. Hexitol is a new discovery and contains no fat and no available carbohydrates. Enjoy chewing this delicious gum and reduce with Dr. Phillips Plan. Try it for 12 days, then step on the scale. You'll hardly believe your eyes. Good for men too.

\$1
12
DAY
SUPPLY
ONLY



Money-Back Guarantee! 10 Day Free Trial!

Mail the coupon now! Test the amazing Dr. Phillips KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM REDUCING PLAN for 10 days at our expense. If after 10 days your friends, your mirror and your scale do not tell you that you have lost weight and look slimmer you pay nothing.

AMERICAN HEALTHAIDS CO., Dept. CH-632, 318 Market St., Newark, N. J.

Just mail us your name and address, and \$1.00 cash, check or money-order. You will receive a 12 day supply of KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM (improved Formula), and Dr. Phillips Reducing Plan postage prepaid.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

STATE _____ CITY _____

☐ Send me Special 24 day supply and FREE 12 day package for \$2.00. I understand that if I am not delighted with KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM and Dr. Phillips Reducing Plan, I can return in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

SENT ON APPROVAL — MAIL COUPON NOW!

MYSTERIOUS ADVENTURES

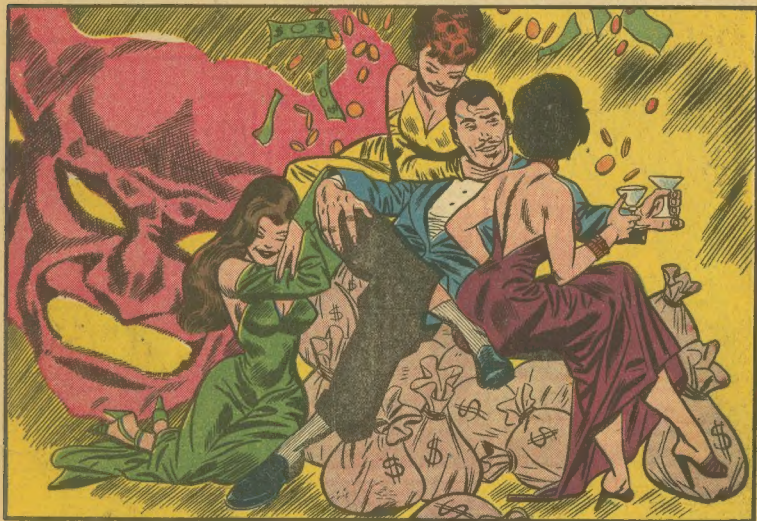
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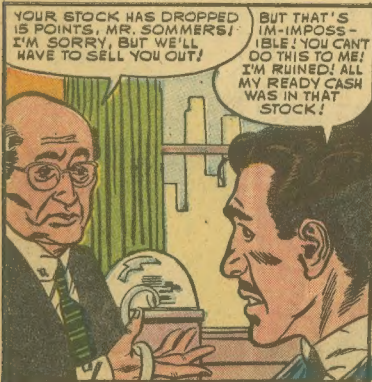
HEALTH, FAME, FORTUNE, PLEASURE-- ALL WERE GUY SOMMERS' FOR THE SPACE OF TWENTY YEARS! LIKE DR. FAUSTUS, HE HAD SOLD HIS SOUL FOR GOLD! BUT UNLIKE THE MAD DOCTOR, GUY SOMMERS WAS SURE HE WOULD NEVER HAVE TO PAY... THAT HE WOULD BE...

THE MAN WHO BEAT THE DEVIL



GUY SOMMERS, SCION OF A ONCE WEALTHY FAMILY, RUSHES TO HIS STOCK BROKER'S OFFICE IN ANSWER TO AN URGENT CALL...

THEN, AS GUY TRUDGES TOWARD HIS FACTORY, DISHEARTENED BY HIS FINANCIAL DISASTER, FATE STRIKES A SECOND BITTER BLOW...



LATER, AS GUY FACES HIS WIFE
IN THEIR PALATIAL HOME...



WIFE, MONEY, AND SECURITY
GONE, GUY SOMMERES
WALKS OUT INTO THE GAR-
DEN, WHERE HE MAKES A
TERRIBLE VOW...

THE WORLD HAS COLLAPSED
AROUND ME! NO MONEY--
MY FRIENDS WON'T HELP...
AND NOW MY WIFE TURNS
OUT TO BE A GOLD-DIGGER.
IF I HAD ENOUGH MONEY
TO GO AWAY AND START
ALL OVER AGAIN, I'D
SELL MY SOUL TO
THE DEVIL!



AND
THEN--



LET'S NOT BANDY
MY NAME ABOUT,
SHALL WE? YOU'LL
SELL YOUR SOUL
FOR MONEY, EH?
VERY WELL--
JUST SIGN
THIS, AND
YOU'LL BE
RICH!

THIS MUST
BE A
DREAM!
I DON'T
BELIEVE
IN... IN...
YOU--BUT
IN CASE
IT'S TRUE,
WHAT ARE
YOUR TERMS?



VERY SIMPLE--AND IT IS
TRUE! JUST SIGN THIS
AGREEMENT, AND YOU'LL
BECOME THE RICHEST
MAN ON EARTH... FOR
TWENTY YEARS! AFTER
THAT TIME, YOUR SOUL
BECOMES MINE!

I WANT AN EXTRA
CHANCE-- I'LL LOSE
MY SOUL TO YOU
ONLY IF I DIE
BY DROWNING!



THERE! I'VE
SIGNED!
DROWNING,
EH? YOU'VE
LOST ALREADY,
FOR I'LL
TAKE GOOD
CARE TO
STAY AWAY
FROM
WATER.
MR...

JUST CALL
ME BUBB...
BEEL Z.
BUBB! YOU
HAVE 20
YEARS!
AFTER THAT,
WE'LL SEE...
AH, THERE'S
YOUR FIRST
DELIVERY
NOW!



GUY FINDS THE FIRST OF THE DEVIL'S DELIVER-
IES--IN THE FORM OF A LIGHTNING BOLT WHICH
KILLS HIS WIFE; AND LATER...

LET ME EXPRESS MY SYMPATHIES,
MR. SOMMERS, YOUR WIFE HAD
INSURED EACH OF YOU FOR
\$100,000--AND HERE
IS YOUR CHECK!

\$100,000
...OH, NO!
I DIDN'T
WANT
THE MONEY
THIS WAY!



AND
THEN
--

GREAT SCOTT! TH--THE
ROOTS OF THE BUSH
CAME OUT...IT'S GOLD!
I'VE BEEN LIVING OVER
A GOLD MINE!



BUT ANDY'S LUCK
IS NOT YET EXPENDED, FOR--

BUT I THOUGHT
THAT AS MY
STOCK
BROKER,
YOU HAD
TO SELL
ME OUT!

IT'S
INCREDI-
BLE! JUST
AS I START-
ED TO SEND
IN THE SELL-
ING ORDER,
THE STOCK
JUMPED FIFTY
POINTS! YOU'VE
MADE \$200,000!



RICHER BY A FORTUNE, BUT STRICKEN WITH
REMORSE, GUY WALKS AGAIN IN HIS GARDEN,
UNTIL HIS FURY GETTING THE BETTER OF HIM...

I DIDN'T WANT THE
MONEY THIS WAY! THAT
INFERNAL MAN! I-I
WISH I COULD RIP HIM
APART AS EASILY AS
I CAN UPROOT
THIS BUSH!



AND THE NEXT MORNING, IN
RESPONSE TO ANOTHER PHONE
CALL, GUY FINDS...

I CAME
RIGHT AWAY,
MR. GUSSET!
WHAT'S THIS
ALL ABOUT?

AN UNCLE OF
YOURS DIED,
MR. SOMMERS--
LEAVING YOU
HIS WHOLE ES-
TATE! HERE'S
HIS WILL! YOUR
LEGACY IS OVER
\$1,000,000!



THE GOLD REMOVED, GUY PREPARES TO LEAVE...

I WANT TO SELL MY HOME--SO I'M HAVING A WELL
DUG FOR A FRESH WATER SUPPLY! AS YOU CAN SEE,
THE HOUSE HAS BEEN
REPAIRED, IT'S A STEAL
AT \$50,000!

HHMM, I'LL HAVE TO
THINK IT OVER! TOO BAD
YOU'RE LEAVING TOWN!
SAY, WHAT'S GOING ON AT
THE WELL?



GOOD GRIEF! YOU
WON'T WANT TO SELL
NOW, SOMMERS!
D'YOU KNOW WHAT
THAT IS? YOU'VE
STRUCK--OIL!



AND SO THE STORY GOES! (AS THE YEARS PASS, EVERYTHING GUY SOMMERS TOUCHES TURNS TO GOLD.)



AND THEN THE MAN APPEARS TO CLAIM HIS DUE...



BUT GUY HAS A SUDDEN INSPIRATION--
ONE LAST CHANCE...



HORRIFIED BY HIS NARROW ESCAPE, GUY FLEES FOR SAFETY TO...

THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE I'LL BE SAFE... DEATH VALLEY! THERE'S NO WATER, AND IT NEVER RAINS THERE! LONG AGO, I BOUGHT A HOME OUT THERE, IN A FEW HOURS, I'LL BE FREE OF THE DEVIL FOREVER!



THEN ALMOST WITHIN SIGHT OF SAFETY, DISASTER STRIKES AGAIN...

BAARDOOM!

THIS IS THE LAST BODY OF WATER BEFORE DEATH VALLEY! ONCE OVER THIS RIVER AND I'LL BE SAFE... WHAT WAS THAT?



I'VE GOT TO GET OUT BEFORE THE CAR SINKS!

BUT LUCK IS STILL WITH GUY, FOR AS HE POPS TO THE SURFACE...

HANG ON... THERE! WE'VE GOT YOU!

I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A MILLION DOLLARS FOR THIS! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE SAVED ME FROM!



AND AT LAST, DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF HIS ENEMY, GUY WINS THROUGH TO HIS ULTIMATE REFUGE...

DEATH VALLEY-- AND MY HOME. AT LAST, I'M SAFE!

MARIA-- ELENA! HURRY, GET EVERYTHING IN ORDER, IT IS THE PADRONE! QUICK!



THE PEACEFUL DAYS PASS CALMLY AND SAFELY... AT LAST, GUY IS HAPPY AND SECURE...

WHAT A PLACE! I'VE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER IN MY LIFE! I'VE OUTWITTED YOU! DO YOUR WORST, BEEL Z. BUSS! I'VE GOT YOU LICKED!



BUT THE WORDS NO SOONER ARE OUT OF GUY'S MOUTH WHEN...

Y-YOU!

CERTAINLY! YOU DEFIED ME, DIDN'T YOU? YOU CROOK! YOU CHEAT-- YOU, YOU... HUMAN!





PRICE SMASH

20 DRESSES

(used)

ASSORTED in Silk, Wool, Cotton & Rayon
ALL SIZES in Good Condition
BUT NO LESS THAN 20 DRESSES
AT THIS BARGAIN PRICE

for
\$350

Ladies' BLOUSES

39c each

5 for \$1.69



Assorted colors and
styles in Silks —
Crepes — Rayons —
Acetates.

Ladies' Winter COATS

\$1.89 each

2 for \$3.59



All sizes with or
without fur collars.
These are in excellent
condition, slight
repairs needed.



Ladies' SHOES

99c pair

3 for \$2.69



Good quality
Leathers and
Fabrics. WILL
GIVE MANY
MONTHS OF
GOOD WEAR.

QUILT PIECES

3 lbs. - \$1.49

Large bundle of
beautiful new cotton
prints, checks,
stripes and solids.
All good size cut-
tings.



Ladies' SKIRTS

69c. each

3 for \$1.79



Full assortment of
colors and styles. All
Wools, Flinids and
Mixtures.

Ladies' Spring COATS & TOPPERS

\$1.29 each

2 for \$2.39



Real Bargains in fine
wool materials. Need
slight repairs. For best
selection order at once.

Ladies' SLIPS

49c each

5 for \$2.29



Beautiful, well tailored
slips that really give
you value for your
money.

ORDER
AT
ONCE



TRIMMAGE SURPRISE
Underwear, Coats, Pajamas,
Bloomers, etc. 20 useful
articles at only \$2.19

FREE!

With \$5.00 Order or More
1 Pair of Ladies' Hosiery
MONEY BACK IF NOT SATISFIED.
\$1.00 Deposit MUST come with order. You pay postman
balance plus COD and postage charges.
NO ORDER ACCEPTED FOR LESS THAN \$3.00
A TRIAL ORDER WILL CONVINCE YOU OF
OUR WONDERFUL BARGAINS

MAIL ORDER MART

Dept. N-2 160 Monroe St.
New York 2, N. Y.

Please send following items, \$1.00 deposit enclosed.

ITEM	SIZE	PRICE

☐ Give Hosiery size - If Order is \$5.00 or more.

Name

Address

City State

NO order accepted without \$1.00 deposit • Canada & Foreign—Full payment with order

MEDICAL TABLET DISCOVERY!

SAFE, NEW,
EASY WAY!



STOP BED WETTING!

Without Electrical Devices...
Rubber Sheets... Alarms...

Ends Shame, Discomfort,
Inconvenience!
Almost Miraculously!

SIMPLE SAFE TABLET DOES IT

DRY-TABS is the same safe medical discovery that is prescribed by many doctors. Now, it is available for the first time without prescription to all the victims of BED-WETTING who long to rid themselves of this distressing habit once and for all. DRY-TABS is safe, not habit forming, contains no harmful drugs—Follow simple directions.

"DRY-TAB THERAPY" Eventually Allows BED-WETTING Victims to Function Normally Without Further Medication

DRY-TABS, in most cases, does not offer merely temporary stopping of BED-WETTING. In case after case, as revealed in clinical tests conducted in hospitals by medical scientists, the DRY-TABS formula proved itself to be a tablet that gives direct support to the patient in controlling his BED-WETTING. The benefits of the DRY-TABS formula may be expected to be effective beyond the period when it is taken regularly. It helps the BED-WETTING victim to restrain, tends to increase strength of sphincter and detrusor muscles controlling urination. Many cases have discontinued the use of DRY-TABS after a short time and found they were functioning normally. So BED-WETTING victims do not have to be slaves to any kind of medication if their case is of the type that responds to the re-training power of DRY-TABS. This is probably one of the greatest advancements ever made in BED-WETTING therapy. Yes, once DRY-TABS stops BED-WETTING, its use may no longer be required, normal functioning and control may be developed almost miraculously. So don't hesitate a minute longer. Order DRY-TABS Today!

DRY-TABS Amazing Formula Effective in 75% of Cases

CASE NO. 1. Healthy, intelligent boy, 9 years old. BED-WETTING since infancy. Child would not break habit. All other medication failed. DRY-TABS formula administered for two three-week periods. Child has remained well for the past three years.

CASE NO. 2. Normal boy, history of BED-WETTING since infancy. Child had no organic defect. Various cures failed. Put on DRY-TABS formula regime. After a month, habit suddenly stopped.

CASE NO. 3. Male, aged 25 years. BED-WETTING since birth. Many forms of treatment failed. Unable to accept invitation to sleep out over-night. Recently married, and embarrassed by habit. After formula taken, wet bed the first two nights but never since that time.

CASE NO. 4. Girl, aged 4 years. Wet bed since infancy. Nervous, irritable. DRY-TABS formula administered for regular period. BED-WETTING stopped almost immediately. Slight relapse. Formula administered again. Child responded immediately once more, and history reveals no further relapse.

CASE NO. 5. Man, 42 years old, wet "heavily." Medication started. Wet during second week and continued to wet when medication was withdrawn for following week. Restarted after rest period, and after five-day treatment caused to retain control of bladder function.

CASE NO. 6. Woman, 16 years old. DRY-TABS formula administered for 3 days. Improvement upon withdrawal of medication, improvement remained. Continued gradual return of control. One year without formula and control is adequate.

WHY endure the needless shame, embarrassment, humiliation... the discomfort and distress of this unfortunate habit? Why put up with the daily nuisance of changing and washing bed linen and clothes? Why suffer the mortification of foul smelling bedrooms... the expense of ruined furniture... the danger of catching cold and infectious rashes?

Doctors agree that BED-WETTING can cause nervousness, stuttering and emotional disturbances in children, very often seriously affecting their future and character, making them "psychological cripples."

But now the disgrace and danger of BED-WETTING can very easily be a thing of the past with amazing new DRY-TABS. At last, medical science has discovered a safe, new, easy way to stop BED-WETTING without electrical devices... without rubber sheets, alarms or special diets and without interrupting needed sleep. DRY-TABS, in easy-to-take tablet form, does away with BED-WETTING as painlessly, easily and simply as swallowing an aspirin. Yes, almost miraculously, amazing, safe DRY-TABS, used as directed, help stop functional BED-WETTING... relieve tension and strain, often the underlying cause in most cases of this unfortunate habit. Now, for the first time, safe DRY-TABS can be obtained without prescription.

DEVELOPED AFTER YEARS OF EXTENSIVE HOSPITAL AND CLINICAL RESEARCH AS REVEALED IN MEDICAL LITERATURE

The discoveries of science, many times, are brought about by indirect means. Take the case of the exclusive DRY-TABS formula. Medical practitioners chanced upon this formula while they were investigating a remedy for another illness. Noting the remarkable effect that this formula had upon BED-WETTING they concentrated their efforts on this new data and developed the formula to its present state of perfection. The result is the new DRY-TABS, a remarkable tablet that has brought new hope to thousands of tormented victims of BED-WETTING. Before this formula was released to the public, it was tested in clinics and hospitals by medical scientists on controlled groups of patients. The DRY-TABS formula is the result of thorough medical research, the same kind of research and care that is given to any product that is to be placed in the hands of the public. Chalk up BED-WETTING as one more ailment that has been conquered by the men of science. Think of it, no expensive electrical devices, cumbersome rubber sheets, special diets or mechanical alarms. Just a wonderful new tablet... DRY-TABS... product of medical research... offering the hope of a new future for all these sufferers of BED-WETTING. Be sure to order DRY-TABS today!

ADULTS: START LIVING A NORMAL LIFE TONIGHT!

Scientific tests actually prove DRY-TABS to be 75% effective in stopping this unfortunate habit—even after years of torment! Ends the constant worry of overnight hotel stops and fear of public embarrassment while napping on trains and buses. Don't wait another day. If your loved ones suffer the humiliation, the disgrace, insecurity and helplessness only BED-WETTING can cause, order DRY-TABS NOW! Easy to take, can be dissolved in water if necessary. Just follow simple directions.

MAKE THIS HOME TEST: Here is your guarantee of satisfaction. Try DRY-TABS for the prescribed period. If you are not completely overjoyed with DRY-TABS' amazing ability to help stop BED-WETTING, your purchase price will be refunded. Accept this no-risk offer. Order DRY-TABS now!

SEND NO MONEY: Just name and address for generous 2-week supply. On arrival pay postman only \$3.00 per package plus C.O.D. charges on guarantee of complete satisfaction or money back.

—MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY—

GARY PHARMACAL CO., Dept. 865-B,
7400 Exchange Ave., Chicago 49, Illinois

Please send me 2-week supply of DRY-TABS on guarantee BED-WETTING must be stopped or money back.

- ☐ Send C.O.D., I will pay postman \$3.00 per package plus postage.
- ☐ Cash enclosed, we pay all postage.
- ☐ Send 2 packages (4-week supply) for \$5.00.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____

MYSTERIOUS ADVENTURES

The Coach Of Darkness

Mr. Phillips wasn't feeling too well when he left the house. In fact he had a dizzy spell as he went down the front steps. He had to clutch the bannister for a moment until it passed, mopping his wrinkled forehead with a grey handkerchief. Each year he grew older he found it took that much more energy to go to work in the morning. The dizzy feeling went away, he straightened his old fashioned bowler hat on his head and stepped down into the fog-filled street. He hadn't noticed the fog earlier. It must have blown in while he was having his tea and toast.

It was a thick, wooly fog that rolled around his legs—he could hardly see ten feet through it. His bus was due soon. What if he missed it? Fear of the future, fear for his job clutched at him with icy fingers—but was dispelled an instant later as a dark shape loomed out of the fog. He reached out and opened the door before he realized that it wasn't the bus. Instead it was an incredibly ancient coach and four. Mr. Phillips tried to drop the handle and step back but found he was unable to do so. The driver leaned out of the box and smiled at him, yellow teeth in a parchment skin, flickering green fires deep in his eyes. His voice was old and dry, like a thin wind rustling the sheets of a moldering manuscript.

"Get in Mr. Phillips . . . this coach is for you . . ."

How does he know my name? Phillips wondered, and while he thought about it his feet lifted up and he climbed inside. The door closed behind him with the muffled thump of a closing coffin lid.

Why did I get in? He asked himself the question, but he could not answer it. Then, with a sudden motion, the coach started forward. He fell back against the cracked leather cushions which gave out a cloud of acrid dust at the impact. Mr. Phillips pulled himself to the window and gazed out, a lump of fear lodged crosswise in his throat. The wet mist streamed by the window, boiling and rolling in clouds. There was nothing else to see: He tried the door handle with the thought of hurling himself out but, strangely, it was locked. Faster and faster the coach went and

larger and larger his fear became. Who was this insane coachman and where was he being taken?

Mr. Phillips' watch had stopped. No amount of winding and shaking could start it going again. On they went through the formless grey fog, for an unmeasurable amount of time. He sank, unmoving, into a black pit of dread, and sat there until he felt the coach slowing down. They had reached their unknown destination.

The door was unlocked now. With shaking legs Mr. Phillips climbed down and looked around. They were in the midst of a graveyard, vast beyond measuring. When an occasional rift opened in the fog he could see acre after acre of tombstones stretching away from him in every direction. A man was walking towards him, a man whom he didn't dare look at. He was a tall man, dressed in black, gently swinging a silver mounted ebony walking stick. The stick pointed straight at Phillips.

"Come with me, Mr. Phillips, I have waited a long time for the pleasure of your company."

"No!", Phillips screamed, "No, no . . . you shan't have me!" Even as he screamed the last words he turned and ran headlong into the fog. Behind him he heard the black man's laugh.

"Well, if not now . . . soon, Mr. Phillips . . . soon . . ."

He was running, running among the grave-stones and then he realized he was no longer moving. And strangely enough his eyes were closed. Why should that be?

He opened his eyes and saw the worried face of his good friend, Dr. DeVries. He was lying on the steps of his apartment, the same spot where he had the dizzy spell. DeVries was closing his medicine bag as he talked.

"Lucky for you, Henry, that I was passing by. You had another of those heart attacks, the worst so far. I had to give you an injection. Just in time too."

"I've seen him!" Mr. Phillips said.

"Who is that?" Dr. DeVries was puzzled.

"Death," answered Mr. Phillips.

The End

Reducing Specialist Says



"Thanks to the Spot Reducer, I lost four inches around the hips and three inches around the waistline. It's amazing." Mary Martin, Long Island City, N. Y.

LOSE WEIGHT
where it shows most

REDUCE

most any part of the body with

SPOT REDUCER



Virginia Williams, Bronx, N. Y., says: "I went from size 16 dress to a size 12 with the use of the Spot Reducer. I am glad I used it."

Like a magic wand, the "Spot Reducer" obeys your every wish. Most any part of your body where it is loose and flabby, wherever you have extra weight and inches, the "Spot Reducer" can aid you in acquiring a youthful, slender and graceful figure. The beauty of this scientifically designed Reducer is that the method is so simple and easy, the results quick, sure and harmless. No exercises or strict diets. No steam baths, drugs or laxatives. Thousands have lost weight this way—in hips, abdomen, legs, arms, buttocks, etc. The same method used by many stage, screen and radio personalities and leading reducing salons. The "Spot Reducer" can be used in your spare time in your own room. It breaks down fatty tissues, tones the muscles and flesh, and the increased, awakened blood circulation carries away waste fat. Two weeks after using the "Spot Reducer," look in the mirror and see a more glamorous, better, firmer, slimmer figure that will delight you. You have nothing to lose but weight for the "Spot Reducer" is sold on a money-back guarantee.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE
With a 10-DAY FREE TRIAL

If the "Spot Reducer" doesn't do the wonders for you as it has for others, if you don't lose weight and inches where you want to lose it most, if you're not 100% delighted with the results, your money will be returned at once.



Marie Hammel, New York, N. Y., says: "I used to wear a size 20 dress, now I wear size 14, thanks to the Spot Reducer. It was fun and I enjoyed it."

MAIL COUPON NOW!

**BODY MASSAGER Co., Dept. A-3,
318 Market St., Newark, N. J.**

Send me at once, for \$2 each, check or money order, the "Spot Reducer" and your famous Special Formula Body Massage Cream, postpaid. If I am not 100% satisfied, my money will be refunded.

Name
Address
City State

FREE

A large size jar of Special Formula Body Massage Cream will be included FREE with your order for the "Spot Reducer."

THE MYSTERY KEEPER'S TALE

HI, FELLOW FANS! VAULT OVER HERE NOW... HEH, HEH! PULL UP A MARBLE SLAB AND LISTEN WHILE YE OLD GRAVEYARD KEEPER DGS UP, BESIDES A WORMY WORM, ANOTHER TALE OUT OF HIS **RE-VAULTING** RECORDS! A TENDER TALE OF AN OLD GIRL WHO WAS ALWAYS SO TOUCHED BY HER NEPHEW... FOR **PLENTY**! TOUCHED IN THE HEAD TOO, SHE WAS! AND IN (GRAVE) KEEPING WITH THOSE TIMELY PUNS, I GIVE YOU THIS TWISTED TALE OF TITILLATING TALES TITLED...

PANDORA'S BUCKS



HIS FACE TWISTING IN UNUSUAL RAGE, ANDREW TODD CREEPT UP SILENTLY BEHIND HIS HARMLESS OLD, AUNT SARA. THE THOUGHT CRASHED THROUGH HIS BRAIN! FOR A MOMENT HE HELD BACK-- BUT HIS HATRED, AND HER MILLIONS HE'D INHERIT, DROVE HIM ON! ONE SUDDEN BLOW AND IT WOULD BE ALL OVER! HE TOOK A FIRMER GRIP ON HIS NERVE... TRYING TO HOLD HIS BREATH SO SHE WOULD HAVE NO SLIGHTEST WARNING! THIS WAS THE MOMENT... THIS WAS IT...

PERHAPS HIS HOARSE PANT OF HATEFUL EAGERNESS WARNED AUNT SARA! SHE TURNED HER HEAD... SAW THE GHASTLY THREAT HANGING OVER HER HEAD, SAW HER NEPHEW BEHIND HER AND SMILED...

"I CAN BLAME IT ON A BURGLAR... ESCAPED. MANIAC... ANYTHING! GET IT OVER WITH... NOW!"



"OH ANDREW, DEAR! NOT AGAIN? SILLY BOY, YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T DO IT, DEAR NEPHEW... YOU NEVER HAVE BEFORE!"

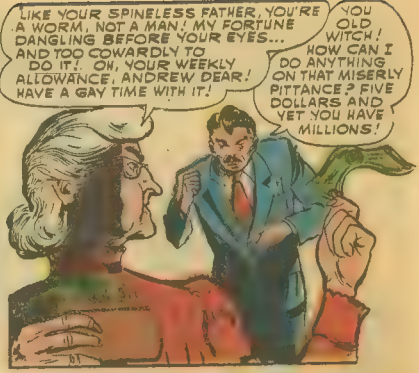




SHE RETURNED TO HER KNITTING CALMLY NOT MISSING A STITCH, STILL SMILING... BUT WITH EVIL MOCKERY MATCHED BY THE ACID DRIPPING FROM HER TONGUE...

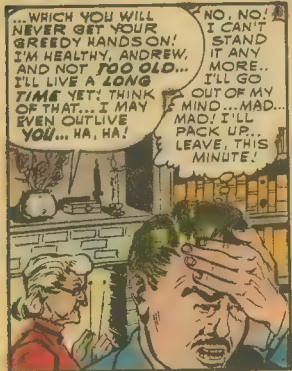
YOU'RE A COWARDLY PUP WITH- OUT A BACKBONE, JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER! HE WAS AFRAID TO MARRY ME... HE MARRIED MY SISTER... YOUR MOTHER, INSTEAD! NOW JUST GO AWAY BEFORE THE SERVANTS SEE HOW RIDICULOUS YOU LOOK!

CAN'T... CAN'T DO IT... SCARED, LIKE ALL THE OTHER TIMES!



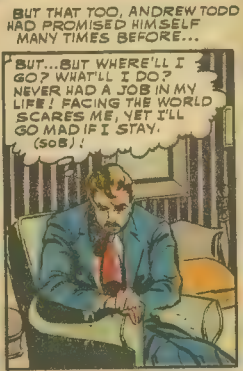
LIKE YOUR SPINELESS FATHER, YOU'RE A WORM, NOT A MAN! MY FORTUNE DANGLING BEFORE YOUR EYES... AND TOO COWARDLY TO DO IT! OH, YOUR WEEKLY ALLOWANCE, ANDREW DEAR! HAVE A GAY TIME WITH IT!

YOU OLD WITCH! HOW CAN I DO ANYTHING ON THAT MISERLY PITTANCE? FIVE DOLLARS AND YET YOU HAVE MILLIONS!



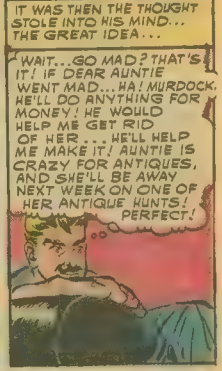
...WHICH YOU WILL NEVER GET YOUR GREEDY HANDSON! I'M HEALTHY, ANDREW, AND NOT TOO OLD... I'LL LIVE A LONG TIME YET! THINK OF THAT... I MAY EVEN OUTLIVE YOU... HA, HA!

NO, NO! I CAN'T STAND IT ANY MORE... I'LL GO OUT OF MY MIND... MAD... MAD! I'LL PACK UP... LEAVE, THIS MINUTE!



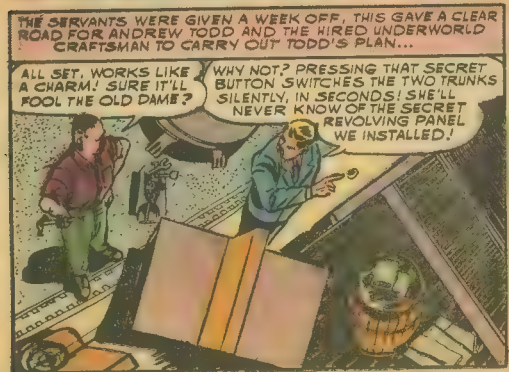
BUT THAT TOO, ANDREW TODD HAD PROMISED HIMSELF MANY TIMES BEFORE...

BUT... BUT WHERE'LL I GO? WHAT'LL I DO? NEVER HAD A JOB IN MY LIFE! FACING THE WORLD SCARES ME, YET I'LL GO MAD IF I STAY. (SOS)!



IT WAS THEN THE THOUGHT STOLE INTO HIS MIND... THE GREAT IDEA...

WAIT... GO MAD? THAT'S IT! IF DEAR AUNTIE WENT MAD... HA! MURDOCK, HE'LL DO ANYTHING FOR MONEY! HE WOULD HELP ME GET RID OF HER... HE'LL HELP ME MAKE IT! AUNTIE IS CRAZY FOR ANTIQUES, AND SHE'LL BE AWAY NEXT WEEK ON ONE OF HER ANTIQUE HUNTS! PERFECT!



THE SERVANTS WERE GIVEN A WEEK OFF, THIS GAVE A CLEAR ROAD FOR ANDREW TODD AND THE HIRED UNDERWORLD CRAFTSMAN TO CARRY OUT TODD'S PLAN...

ALL SET, WORKS LIKE A CHARM! SURE IT'LL FOOL THE OLD DAME?

WHY NOT? PRESSING THAT SECRET BUTTON SWITCHES THE TWO TRUNKS SILENTLY, IN SECONDS! SHE'LL NEVER KNOW OF THE SECRET REVOLVING PANEL WE INSTALLED!



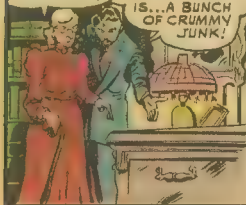
NOW REMEMBER, TODD -- MY CUT IS TWENTY FIVE PER CENT OF THE OLD LADY'S DOUGH!

A BIG BITE... BUT WORTH IT! IT MAY TAKE A FEW WEEKS... BUT AUNT SARA'S FORTUNE WILL BE IN MY HANDS... WHILE SHE'S STILL ALIVE! HA, HA!

WHEN AUNT SARA RETURNED, ANDREW WAS SURE HE COULD PASS IT OFF WITHOUT TROUBLE. WHAT WITH THE ANTIQUES THAT HAD BEEN POURING IN FROM HER SHOPPING TOUR...

THAT TRUNK!! I DON'T REMEMBER... WHERE DID I BUY THAT?

HOW CAN YOU REMEMBER ALL THE JUNK YOU BUY? THAT'S WHAT IT IS...A BUNCH OF CRUMMY JUNK!



ANDREW KNEW HIS INSULT WOULD COVER SUSPICION OVER THE TRUNK WITH HER DEFENSIVE ANGER...

LEAVE THE ROOM, ANDREW! I WANT TO ENJOY MY ANTIQUES WITHOUT YOUR SARCASM! HMM, STRANGE OLD PIECE...

PANDORA'S BOX, NO DOUBT! HA! SOMETHING HORRID MAY JUMP OUT AT YOU, I HOPE! HA, HA!



PANDORA'S BOX OF TROUBLES THE IDEA HAD BEEN SUBTLY PLANTED BY ANDREW, AND WHEN AUNT SARA, ALONE, OPENED THE TRUNK...

HELP! OHHHH!



THE SCREAM WAS MUSIC TO ANDREW'S EARS. HE RAN IN AND...

I BEAT ANY OF THE SERVANTS HERE! NOW THE SECRET BUTTON... SILENTLY SWITCHING THE OTHER TRUNK IN VIEW...INNOCENTLY! THAT'LL REALLY SHOCK HER LATER...



LATER, AFTER THE MAID ATTENDED TO AUNT SARA...

I-I TELL YOU A HORRIBLE... UH... SOMETHING POPPED OUT OF THAT TRUNK!

AUNTIE, PLEASE! YOU'RE A BIG GIRL... YOU JUST IMAGINED IT! LOOK...I'LL EVEN OPEN IT AND I'M A COWARD...REMEMBER?



E-EMPTY?

WHAT ELSE, AUNTIE DEAR? I'M AFRAID YOUR NERVES ARE GIVING WAY! NOW DON'T SEE A GHOUL OR SKELETON NEXT TIME... HA HA HA!



BUT ANDREW KNEW PRECISELY WHAT SHE WOULD SEE NEXT--HE SAW TO THAT...WORKING IN SECRET BEHIND THE WALL...

MURDOCK MADE ME A NICE GRUESOME SELECTION OF MECHANICAL "HORRORS" TO POP OUT... SECRET MECHANISMS AND SPRINGS WORK 'EM! AND OLD CHIN-UP AUNTIE WILL FORCE HERSELF TO OPEN IT AGAIN... STUBBORNLY, SCOFFING AT HER OWN FEARS! I CAN'T LOSE!



ANDREW WAS RIGHT...

EKK! B-BUT I WON'T F-FAINT... I'LL CALL THE MAID TO SEE IT, MABEL... MABEL! HURRY!



IT WAS A FAKE SKELETON...

BUT ANDREW NEEDED ONLY SECONDS...WHILE AUNT SARA RAN YELLING TO THE DOOR, HE MADE THE SWITCH...

B-BUT MUM, IT'S EMPTY! NO SKELETON, NOTHING, MUM!

TSK! TSK! PULLING PRACTICAL JOKES, AUNTIE MY LOVE? WHY DON'T YOU HAVE THAT OLD JUNK FLUNG OUT IF IT GIVES YOU HALLUCINATIONS? AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I'D DO!



YES, THAT'S WHAT A COWARD LIKE ANDREW WOULD DO...AND THUS, HE FED HER FIRES OF PRIDE AND STUBBORNNESS, SO THAT AUNT SARA WOULD...

I TOLD ANDREW NOT TO DARE THROW IT OUT! WOULDN'T GIVE THAT SCOUNDREL THE SATISFACTION OF THINKING I'M AFRAID! JUST LET IT SIT THERE...I WON'T OPEN IT AGAIN TILL I COLLECT MY SENSES!



BUT WITH AN OMINOUS CREAK, AS A TIMED DEVICE SET BY ANDREW DID IT'S OWN WORK OPENING THE LID...

NO--NO! MUST HAVE A WITNESS... RICHARDS! COME QUICKLY...



THE FLOATING MASK TERRIFIED HER...

BUT RICHARDS, THE BUTLER, WAS TOO LATE TO SEE ANYTHING AMISS EXCEPT THE MAD GLINT IN HIS MISTRESS' EYE...

I SAW IT, I TELL YOU... A DECAPITATED HEAD... FLOATING...

I'LL TAKE YOU TO YOUR ROOM, MADAM!

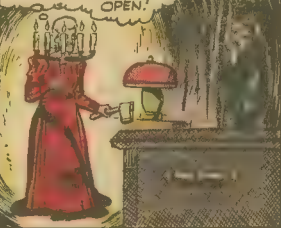
YOU'D BETTER CALL THE DOCTOR, TOO, RICHARDS!



BUT THAT NIGHT, AS ANDREW COULD HAVE FORETOLD ACCURATELY...

HMFF! SEDATIVES... REST...NEUROSIS... BAH! NO DOCTOR CAN CONVINCE ME MY MIND'S GOING! I'LL SETTLE THIS... SMASH IT OPEN!

LIKE THE MOTH TO THE FLAME! NOW, THE BEST SHOCKER...



WHATEVER ANCIENT EVIL IT HOLDS, I'LL SMASH IT AND...

HELP! TH- THE DEVIL HIMSELF! HELP!



AND LATER AT THE DOCTOR'S WORDS, ANDREW TODD KNEW HIS SINISTER SCHEME HAD WORKED--WHAT WITH THE TESTIMONY OF THE SERVANTS...

POOR WOMAN, PSYCHOTIC! HER MIND... WELL, SNAPPED! I'M AFRAID THERE'S ONLY ONE THING YOU CAN DO, MY BOY...

NO! Y-YOU MEAN HAVE HER COMMITTED AS... INSANE? NOT THAT, DOCTOR, NOT THAT!

NOT THAT, DOCTOR... HA, HA, HA!



LATER, ANDREW SHARED THE SECRET TRIUMPH WITH MURDOCK, UNTIL...

WE GET RID OF THIS STUFF... THE COURT DECLARES YOUR AUNT BUGS, AND YOU, HER ONLY LIVING RELATIVE, GET HER ENTIRE FORTUNE--AND I GET MY FIFTY PER CENT CUT!

WHAT? I ONLY PROMISED TWENTY FIVE PER CENT! YOU CAN'T UP YOUR TAKE NOW!

CAN'T I, CHUM? ONE WORD FROM ME AND YOU LOSE IT ALL... GO TO JAIL TOO! GOT YOU DEAD TO RIGHTS! SEE?

I SEE ALL RIGHT, YOU DIRTY... **BLACK-MAILER!**

I HAVE TO GET RID OF HIM... BRAIN HIM... NO... BUT WAIT, IF I CALL HIM INTO THE NEXT ROOM, TIMING IT JUST RIGHT... HAH! I WON'T HAVE TO DO THE UGLY JOB MYSELF...

OKAY, FIFTY PER CENT, MURDOCK! BUT COME IN HERE AND SIGN A PROMISE NOT TO ASK FOR MORE LATER, I INSIST!

AFTER ALL, I'M NO HOG, HA, HA!

ANDREW TREMBLED...EVEN THOUGH HE MERELY HAD TO PRESS A LITTLE BUTTON... AND THEN IT WAS DONE...

HERE'S YOUR PAYOFF...

NO... NO... **GHAAAA!**

ANDREW SHOOK WITH FEAR, BUT HE HAD TO FINISH THE JOB! THERE WAS NO TIME TO LOSE IN CASE THE SERVANTS HAD HEARD...

THIS OLD WINE CELLAR... NEVER USED... PERFECT TO HIDE HIM WHILE HE'S STILL OUT COLD!

NOW HE'S SAFE... GOT TO GET READY FOR COURT HEARING TOMORROW, AUNT SARA WILL BE COMMITTED... AND I TAKE OVER AS LEGAL HEIR! IN THIS STATE, INSANITY AS WELL AS DEATH PASSES ON INHERITANCE LEGALLY!

CLICK!

BUT MURDOCK WAS TOUGH-- HE RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS SOON AFTER, AND HIS SKILLFUL THIEF'S FINGERS PICKED THE LOCK...

OWWW, MY HEAD! GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

AHH... ALMOST GOT IT!

STILL DAZED, MURDOCK STAGGERED DOWN THE HALL -- APPROACHING FOOT- STEPS STARTLED HIM. HE SOUGHT REFUGE...

SOMEONE'S COMING... I'LL HIDE IN THIS ROOM...



...BUT HIS STRENGTH FAILED HIM! HE LAPSED ONCE MORE INTO UNCON- SCIOUSNESS... FALLING INTO THE BOX...

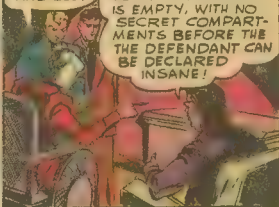
I...I'M FAINTING... EVERYTHING SPINNING AROUND... I... I... OHHHHH!



ANDREW COULD HARDLY CONCEAL HIS ELATION THE NEXT DAY, AS' DUE TO THE CONDITION OF AUNT SARA. THE FINAL PROCEEDINGS WERE HELD AT HOME, WHERE EXHIBIT A WOULD DO IT'S FINAL WORK...

THE DEVIL, I SAID... HEH! LOOK IN THE TRUNK AND SEE!

I...I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO! TAKE A LOOK, WENTWORTH! THE COURT MUST BE FULLY SATISFIED IT IS EMPTY, WITH NO SECRET COMPART- MENTS BEFORE THE DEFENDANT CAN BE DECLARED INSANE!



BUT IT WAS MERE ROUTINE! THERE WAS NO FURTHER DOUBT IN ANYONE'S EYES...

HEH... THE DEVIL SAID HELLO TO ME, NICE AS YOU PLEASE! HEH!

HER MIND DID CRACK UNDER THE STRAIN... MAKES IT A CINCH! BUT EVEN IF SHE'D HELD ON TO HER SANITY, SHE'D HAVE BEEN RAILROADED INTO AN ASYLUM! I COULDN'T LOSE!



MILLIONS! ALL MINE! I WISH HE'D HURRY AND GET IT OVER WITH... RAISE THAT LID AND SEE THE TRUNK'S INSIDE... THE INNOCENT EMPTY ONE!

ANDREW CHOKED, HIS EYES BULGED! THE ROOM SWAM DIZZILY, SHOCK SMASHED THROUGH HIS BRAIN AT THE FRIGHTFUL IMPACT OF WHAT LAY IN THE EMPTY TRUNK...WHICH WASN'T EMPTY...

EEAAA! BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! H-HOW COULD HE...IT GET IN THE TRUNK... THE OTHER TRUNK... THE WRONG ONE!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT SOME EXPLAIN- ING TO DO, MR. TODD!



ANDREW BABBLLED, NOW AS INSANE AS HIS AUNT, AT THE SIGHT OF THE UNCONSCIOUS MURDOCK... WHO LOOKED QUITE DEAD---



I GUESS POOR ANDY DIDN'T LIKE TO SEE HIS FRIENDS LYING AROUND. HEH. HEH, HEH --- GAVE HIM QUITE A SHOCK! SARA WAS CURED... NOW ANDREW IS IN THE ASYLUM INSTEAD OF HER!



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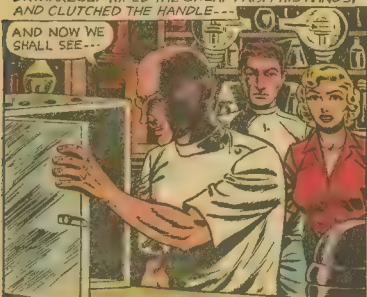
THEY NEVER RETURN



By
JAYSON

THE NIGHT WIND WHISTLED AROUND THE ANCIENT MANSION. INSIDE THERE WAS A TENSE STILLNESS AS DR. JOHNATHAN WAKESLY PEERED INTO THE STRANGE METAL CONTAINER. HIS TWO ASSISTANTS, RHOMA ANDREWS AND DAN CARTER, DREW BACK. THIS WAS AN EXPERIMENT THEY FEARED, A TRIFILING WITH THE LAWS OF NATURE THAT CONTROL LIFE--AND DEATH! DR. WAKESLY WIPED THE SWEAT FROM HIS HANDS, AND CLUTCHED THE HANDLE--

AND NOW WE
SHALL SEE--



A SUDDEN SCRAMBLING, AND A CHIMPANZEE EMERGED WEAKLY FROM THE BOX.

I'VE DONE IT! SUCCESS
AT LAST!--THE
CREATURE IS
ALIVE!

IT'S INCREDIBLE! YOU HAVE
ACTUALLY RESTORED LIFE TO
A DEAD ANIMAL!



IT'S ALL RECORDED HERE, IN THIS ANCIENT FORMULA; THE SECRETS OF LIFE! AH, I'VE WORKED FOR YEARS TO PERFECT IT, AND AT LAST I HAVE IT! WHAT A BOON TO HUMANITY! I THINK OF THE BLESSING TO THOSE FAMILIES BROKEN AND SEPARATED THROUGH DEATH!

AH, YES, DR. WAKESLEY! BUT I THINK YOU BETTER PUT THAT FORMULA IN THE SAFE!

BUT RHOMA AND DAN ALSO HAD A SECRET. AS SOON AS THE PROFESSOR LEFT...

THIS IS OUR CHANCE, RHOMA! IF WE CAN GET RID OF THE GOOD DOCTOR, WE'LL BE RICH FOR LIFE! THAT FORMULA'S WORTH MILLIONS! YOU SAY YOU LOVE ME; NOW PROVE IT! HELP ME KILL HIM, HE'S THE ONLY THING THAT STANDS BETWEEN US!

WE HAVE TO DO IT RIGHT DAN, OR WE'LL LOSE EVERYTHING! AT THE RIGHT TIME...

LOOK, KID, I'M TIRED OF WAITING! I WANT TO GET MY HANDS ON SOME MONEY, SOME REAL CASH! AND I WANT TO BE WITH YOU ALL THE TIME, JUST LIKE WE PLANNED!

DON'T WORRY, HONEY, IT WON'T BE TOO LONG! I CAN'T BE! I CAN'T STAND MUCH MORE OF HIM! EVEN THE SIGHT OF THE DODDERING OLD FOOL SICKENS ME!... BUT I HAVE A PLAN...



THE FOLLOWING DAY, RHOMA ACCOMPANIED HER BOSS INTO TOWN. SHE HAD A PISTOL CONCEALED IN HER BAG. SHE HAD A PLAN TO USE IT BUT SHE HAD TO BE ANGRY FIRST. ANGRY ENOUGH TO KILL!

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO USE SO MUCH LIPSTICK! IT LOOKS DISGRACEFUL! DOWN RIGHT SHAMEFUL!

MAD IF HE DOESN'T CUT IT OUT! THAT'S THE WAY--GET ANGRY-ANGRY ENOUGH TO DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO!



SHE TURNED ON HIM LIKE A WILD TIGRESS, HER EYES GLOWING WITH FIERY HATRED...

SEE HERE, YOUNG LADY, I'M YOUR BOSS, AND YOU'LL DO AS I TELL YOU! I SHALL DEVISE A SUITABLE PUNISHMENT FOR THIS--

THIS CHEAP PUBLIC EXHIBITION WHEN I GET YOU OUT!



SOMETHING WITHIN HER MIND SEEMED TO SNAP. THE ANGER THAT HAD BEEN BUILDING UP WITHIN HER FOR YEARS, SUDDENLY CULMINATED IN A FIT OF ANGER. ANGER THAT GAVE COURAGE. SHE COULD DO IT NOW!

TAKE THAT!



A MOMENT LATER, RATIONALITY RETURNED, AND WHEN SHE KNEW WHAT SHE HAD DONE, SHE WAS NO LONGER AFRAID. THE PLAN WAS WORKING WELL...

SHE SHOT HIM, OFFICER!

CUT HIM DOWN! OKAY, IN COLD BLOOD! SISTER, LET'S HAVE THE GUN!



DAN WAS QUICK TO LEARN OF THE INCIDENT, AND HE MADE A HURRIED VISIT TO THE JAIL IN WHICH SHE WAS HELD...

WHY DID YOU DO IT, BABY? THERE WILL BE A THOUSAND WITNESSES WHO WILL SWEAR THEY SAW YOU DO IT! YOU'LL GET THE CHAIR!

DON'T YOU SEE, THAT'S WHAT I WANT! I DON'T WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE IN JAIL! I WANT THE MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT, DEATH! THEN YOU WILL REVIVE ME! EVEN IF THEY FIND OUT, THEY CAN NEVER PUT ME ON TRIAL AGAIN!



JUSTICE MOVED SWIFTLY! THE TRIAL WAS HELD AND THE VERDICT WAS QUICK IN COMING—

WE FIND THE DEFENDANT, **GUILTY!!**



THE DAY BEFORE THE EXECUTION, DAN VISITED RHOMA IN THE DEATH HOUSE. SHE WAS NOW LOSING HER NERVE... AS THE GRIM SHADOW OF IMPENDING DOOM HOVERED ABOVE HER!

I'M SCARED NOW, DANNY! I DON'T WANT TO DIE! YOU DON'T WORRY, DARLING, I'VE TESTED THE FORMULA! IT WORKS EVERY TIME! I WON'T FAIL YOU!



THE EXECUTION WAS CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE. DAN FELT A SINKING SENSATION AS HE READ THE ACCOUNT IN THE MORNING PAPER. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS RESOLUTE...

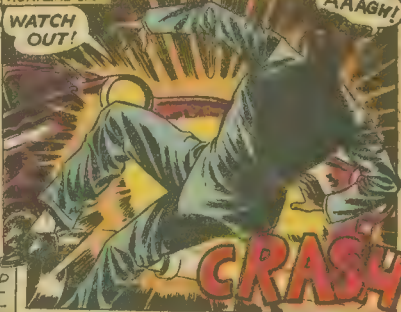
I'M GOING TO BRING YOU BACK, RHOMA, I WILL! I SWEAR IT!



HE COULD WAIT NO LONGER; HE MUST RESTORE HER TO LIFE IMMEDIATELY! IN A FRENZY OF HASTE, RECKLESSLY HE RUSHED INTO THE STREET. HE MUST GET TO THE GRAVEYARD QUICKLY, IT WAS THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERED.



THERE WAS A SUDDEN SQUEAL OF BRAKES, A SCREAM TORN FROM TERRIFIED LIPS. IN HIS HASTE RECKLESS OF WHERE HE WAS GOING, DAN STEPPED IN FRONT OF A HURLING CAR.



HE WAS RUSHED TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL AND REMAINED UNCONSCIOUS FOR SEVERAL HOURS. HIS MIND WAS TORMENTED WITH VISIONS OF RHOMA'S LOVELY FACE, PLEADING WITH HIM FOR HELP...

HELP ME, DAN, PLEASE, RELEASE ME FROM THIS PLACE!



THE ACHING PAIN IN HIS INTURED LEGS DRAGGED DAN BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS--A HOSPITAL ROOM--MEMORY RETURNED WITH A RUSH, AND WITH IT, A TERRIBLE FEAR.....

LET ME UP! I MUST GET OUT OF HERE! THERE IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO!

I'M SORRY, MR. CARTER! YOU HAVE COMPOUND FRACTURES OF BOTH LEGS! YOU'LL HAVE TO REMAIN HERE AT LEAST FIVE WEEKS, UNTIL THOSE BONES HEAL!



THE LONG WEEKS PASSED SLOWLY AS THE YOUNG SCIENTIST'S COMALESENCE CONTINUED - WEEKS OF NIGHTMARE DREAMS AND GROWING FEAR; WOULD THE FORMULA WORK NOW? WOULD THEY BE TOGETHER AGAIN? FINALLY...



I'VE MADE IT! FIVE WEEKS LATE... BUT I'M HERE! WE'LL BE TOGETHER NOW!

WITH SHAKING FINGERS HE CHECKED THE CONNECTIONS ON THE SMALL REVVING RAY MACHINE HE HAD MADE, USING THE PROFESSOR'S FORMULA... HE SWITCHED IT ON...



I ONLY HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

A MOMENT LATER THE SURFACE OF THE GRAVE BEGAN TO CRACK OPEN IT WAS WORKING! RHOMA WAS RETURNING FROM THE GRAVE, BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG....



RHOMA, WHAT'S THIS? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

PAINFULLY, THAT THING I'VE USED IT'S WAY THROUGH THE DAMP GRAVEYARD DIRT!

SHE WAS AN OLD HUMAN... OLD AND FEEBLE! SHE SPOKE TO HIM...

HE HAD RESTORED LIFE TO RHOMA, BUT HE COULD NOT CHANGE THE RAVAGES WORKED ON HER BODY BY THE FORCES OF DECAY..

NO! IT CAN'T BE! GET AWAY! YOU'RE DEAD!

BUT I AM RHOMA! OH DARLING, WHY DID YOU WAIT SO LONG?



CONSUMED WITH HORROR, HE RAN FROM HER. SHE FOLLOWED, CROAKING AND WHISPERING.

GOT TO GO! DAN, WAIT, COME BACK! DON'T LEAVE ME, GET AWAY! BELOVED! I NEED YOU! I WAITED SO LONG FOR YOU TO COME!



HE HAD BUT ONE DESIRE; TO GET AWAY FROM THE ANCIENT THING HE HAD BROUGHT FORTH FROM THE WORLD OF DARKNESS, AND IN SPITE OF HIS INJURIES, HE DID NOT STOP UNTIL HE ARRIVED AT HIS APARTMENT HOUSE...



OH WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHY DID I GIVE LIFE TO THAT THING?

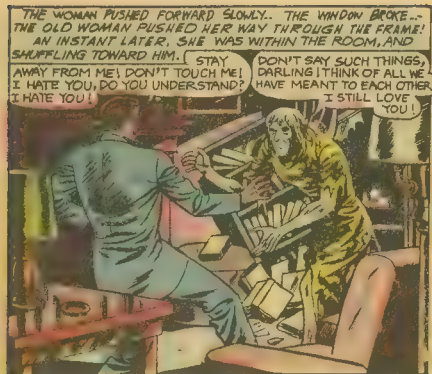
HE BURST INTO HIS APARTMENT AND LOCKED THE DOOR. HE LEANED AGAINST IT, GASPING FOR AIR, TREMBLING IN EXHAUSTION... THANK HEAVENS, I'M SAFE AT LAST!



A SUDDEN CLATTER AT HIS WINDOW CAUSED HIM TO TURN ABRUPTLY. HE SHRANK BACK IN FEAR AS HER FINGERS FUMBLER AT THE GLASS. RHOMA HAD FOLLOWED HIM HOME!



NO. NO! ARRRH!



SHE HELD HIM IN HER ARMS, AN OLD WOMAN, NOT THE RHOMA HE HAD LOVED...



WITH A STRENGTH BORN OF DESPAIR, HE BROKE FROM HER EMBRACE AND HE WALKED SLOWLY BACKWARD, TREMBLING WITH FEAR. HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE TO GO; SHE HAD CUT OFF HIS ONLY RETREAT... IT WAS YOU WHO I CAN'T STAND BROUGHT ME BACK TO IT! STAY AWAY FROM ME! YOUR LIFE! YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY PRESENT CONDITION! THE REASON I HAD YOU COME SOON-SIGHT OF ME, I WOULD NOT BE THE YOU SICKENS TERRIBLE, OLD WOMAN! YOU SEE BEFORE YOU NOW!



HE RETREATED UNTIL HIS BACK WAS AGAINST THE FIRE PLACE. ONCE AGAIN HE COULD GO NO FURTHER, HIS GRIPPING HAND CAME IN CONTACT WITH A FIRE IRON. HE GRASPED IT.



WITH A MANIACAL SHOUT, THE YOUNG SCIENTIST BEGAN TO BLUDGEON THE HORRIBLE CREATURE REPEATEDLY WITH THE POKER...



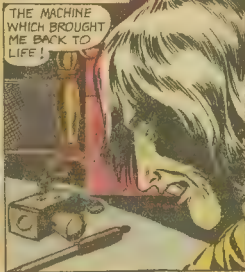
DAN CARTER RAN DOWN THE STAIRS! HE HAD NO DESTINATION IN VIEW; HE ONLY KNEW HE HAD TO GET AWAY FROM THAT SCENE OF HORROR. HIS HEART POUNDED WITH DREAD, HE WEPT LIKE A FRIGHTENED CHILD...



HIS WEAKENED LEGS GAVE WAY AND HE TUMBLED HEADLONG DOWN THE STAIRS, TO LIE UNCONSCIOUS AT THE BOTTOM --



MEANWHILE, THE INCREDIBLY OLD WOMAN WHOM HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO ELUDE, ROSE TO HER FEET. SHE SAW THE RAY MACHINE ON THE FLOOR WHERE DAN HAD DROPPED IT...



TAKING THE MACHINE WITH HER, SHE WALKED DOWN THE STAIRS, THERE, LYING PROSTRATE UPON THE FLOOR, WAS THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN THE OBJECT OF HER DESIRE, BUT NOW HER LOVE HAD TURNED TO WRATH--

HE SPURNED ME! HE FLUNG MY OFFER OF LOVE BACK INTO MY FACE! I WILL KILL! KILL!



THE HORRIBLE THING ENTERED THE BASEMENT, AND RETURNED A FEW MOMENTS LATER WITH A CLUB DAN HAD REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS BY NOW AND HE GAZED IN HORROR AS HE SAW THE CRUSHED MONSTER,



SHE HAD BEEN DEAD -- SHE KNEW DEATH WELL -- NOW DAN WAS DEAD...



THEN SHE RECALLED THE MACHINE THE CRUMBLING FINGERS TURNED THE SWITCH AND THE LIFE-GIVING RAY BURNED DOWN ON DAN.. BUT ONLY ENOUGH TO BE HALF ALIVE..



HAND IN HAND, THEY RETURNED TO THE GRAVE -- THEY WERE TOGETHER AT LAST...



END

PLAY PIANO THE FIRST DAY... OR DON'T PAY!

Here's Your Chance to
BE POPULAR!



I'M CERTAINLY MISSING A LOT
OF FUN, AND DATES, TOO.
IF I COULD ONLY PLAY
THE PIANO THE WAY
BETTY DOES.
'WONDER HOW SHE
LEARNED SO FAST?
I'LL ASK HER THE
FIRST CHANCE I GET.

MARY, I NEVER TOOK A LESSON IN MY LIFE—BUT
NOW I CAN PLAY WELL, THANKS TO THE
AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR AND
THE DEAN ROSS SIMPLE ABC METHOD.
YOU OUGHT TO TRY IT!

IF IT'S AS EASY
AS YOU SAY AND
IT ONLY COSTS
\$2.98 I'LL SEND
FOR IT
RIGHT AWAY!

GLAD I TOOK BETTY'S ADVICE.
NOW I GET INVITED
EVERYWHERE. NO MORE
WALLFLOWER STUFF
FOR ME!



"I learned to play a song in 10
minutes."

—A.C.C., Washington

"Even if one never played a
note it is easy."

—C.G.H., New Hampshire

"Now I can play sheet music
beautifully."

—E.S., New York

Hundreds of thankful, en-
thusiastic letters like these
are in our files.

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NO BORING EXERCISES!
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ARE WILD
ABOUT THE
WAY I PLAY
PIANO—CAN'T
THANK DEAN
ROSS ENOUGH



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I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.

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J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

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MYSTERIOUS ADVENTURES

CURSE OF THE IDOL'S EYE

It was in the slum section of a certain oriental city—Hampton never said which one—that he found the idol's eye. He heard a choked-off scream from one of the alleys and, being of a curious nature, immediately ran in to investigate. The clatter of his hobnailed boots must have frightened away the attackers, for all he found was a dead man and a ruby as big as a pullet's egg. It rolled from the dead man's hand, undoubtedly the prize the murderers had sought. To the victor belong the spoils, in the underworld as in war. Hampton pocketed the ruby and went his way.

I will say this much: he did make an effort to return it to its rightful owners. A quiet and thorough search proved that this was impossible. The ruby was known as The Eye of Kun-Won and had a singularly violent history. For 200 years, since it was first stolen from the idol of Kun-won, it had brought only terror and death to its possessors. Stolen again after a particularly violent murder it had vanished for over 75 years. Now it turned up again in Hampton's possession, and he meant to convert it as soon as possible into ready cash — money being one of the few things that he both respected and desired.

At once ill-fortune began to overtake him. He was a hard-headed man with no superstitions, and he gave no credence to the talk of a curse on the ruby. One night he surprised three thugs searching his hotel room and waded right in. One of them sank limply to the floor after an efficient right-hook on the chin, while a second, half rising, was dropped back again by a neck-snapping rabbit punch. The third man, a little more quick-witted than his fellows, brought one of the chairs down on Hampton's head . . . he fell.

He came to later, to find himself alone in the shambles of his room. His wallet and all his valuables were gone, but a hurried glance showed him that the ruby was still safe among the colored stones of a potted plant on the window ledge.

He boarded a ship for England the follow-

ing day. He was sure that he had been followed—that's why he knew the visitor in his cabin was there for no good purpose. The luger in the man's hand made the thought a certainty. The man was a little startled when Hampton quietly handed over the idol's eye ruby. He seized it and fled from the room. His animal mind was not quick enough to duplicate Hampton's thoughts: the thief could not escape from the ship. Hampton would get the ruby back easily. The man fled and Hampton glided quietly after him.

On the moonlit deck it happened—the accident that was not an accident. The thief stopped suddenly and screamed in a high, girlish voice. He staggered sideways, his fist containing the ruby thrust out before him. The ship did not roll, the sea was glassy smooth — yet he fell against the rail and fell over it. Fell isn't the right word. It was as if some invisible power was pulling him over. He shouted once and was gone. He never came to the surface.

Hampton, having lived for many years in the east, was philosophic about his loss. He mentioned it to no one, other than myself, and that was many years later. One thing about the drowning always disturbed him. As the thief fell he shouted, "Let me go!" Hampton could never understand why.

There is one piece of information I have never given to Hampton, for he would scoff and call me superstitious. Be that as it may, the fact still exists.

The idol of Kun-Won, from which the ruby was stolen, was also taken from the temple years later. However, the ship carrying it sank off the coast. As near as I can determine it sank in exactly the spot where the thief had drowned.

It is my firm belief that the ruby eye of Kun-Won is once more resting in its stony socket.

The End

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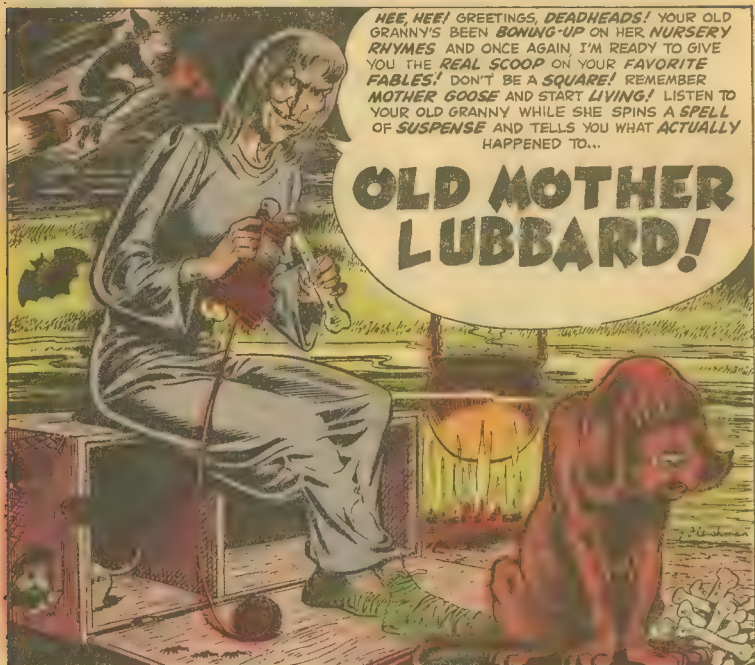
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MOTHER GHOUL'S 'NURSERY TALE...



HEE, HEE! GREETINGS, DEADHEADS! YOUR OLD GRANNY'S BEEN **BONING-UP** ON HER **NURSERY RHYMES** AND ONCE AGAIN I'M READY TO GIVE YOU THE **REAL SCOOP** ON YOUR **FAVORITE FABLES!** DON'T BE A **SQUARE!** REMEMBER **MOTHER GOOSE** AND START **LIVING!** LISTEN TO YOUR OLD GRANNY WHILE SHE SPINS A **SPELL OF SUSPENSE** AND TELLS YOU WHAT **ACTUALLY** HAPPENED TO...

OLD MOTHER LUBBARD!

REMEMBER THE RHYME, DEAR READER? OLD MOTHER HUBBARD WENT TO THE CUPBOARD TO GET HER POOR DOG A BONE...

COME ALONG, **PIERPONT**, MY SWEET DOG!

WOOF! WOOF!



BUT WHEN SHE GOT THERE THE CUPBOARD WAS BARE AND SO THE POOR DOG GOT NONE. (THAT'S A RHYME?)

OH, MY, **PIERPONT**, THERE'S NOTHING HERE!

(SOB) **HUNGRY, ALL THE TIME I'M HUNGRY!**



AND NOW FOR THE TRUE FACTS OF THE CASE TO BEGIN WITH, OLD MOTHER HUBBARD WAS NEITHER A MOTHER NOR WAS SHE OLD! SHE WAS A LIVIN', BREATHIN' DOLL! AND HER REAL NAME WAS LUBBARD, NOT HUBBARD.

GUS LUBBARD, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GET A JOB? WE AIN'T HAD A DECENT MEAL IN MONTHS!

AW, SHUT-UP, MABEL! ALL YOU EVER DO IS COMPLAIN! COMPLAIN!



GUS WAS RIGHT. MABEL COMPLAINED CONSTANTLY... BUT THEN, WHO COULD BLAME HER? GUS HADN'T WORKED IN MONTHS, AND IN THOSE DAYS THERE WASN'T A WELFARE BOARD!

MEAT! I HAVEN'T HAD A MOUTHFUL OF MEAT SINCE I MARRIED YOU! I'M WARNIN' YOU, GUS, EITHER YOU GET SOME MONEY... OR I'M GONNA MAKE A STEAK OUTTA THAT DOG!

YOU TOUCH THAT DOG AND I'LL FINISH YOU, MABEL!



THE DOG'S NAME WAS PIERPONT AND MABEL HATED IT. SHE WAS A HEP CAT WHO WANTED THE DOG GONE. (JOKE, YUK, YUK, YUK!) MABEL VOWED SILENTLY THAT SOMEDAY SHE WOULD GET PIERPONT...

C'MON, PIERPONT BOY, LET'S GO HUNTING AND GET AWAY FROM HERE FOR A WHILE!

OH, SOMEDAY, I SWEAR I'LL...



BUT WHEN LEFT ALONE, MABEL'S HATRED DISSOLVED TO TEARS AND SHE SOBBED UNHAPPILY, HER WAILS ECHOING SO LOUDLY THROUGH THE CABIN THAT SHE DIDN'T HEAR HER GOOD FRIEND EMMA SLOCUM ENTER...

(SOB! SOB!) HUNGRY! (SOB!) ALL THE TIME I'M HUNGRY!

MABEL? MABEL, DEAR?



EMMA'S HUSBAND HAD DIED OF A HEART ATTACK TWO DAYS EARLIER AND MABEL MOMENTARILY FORGOT HER OWN WOES AS SHE COMFORTED HER FRIEND...

OH, EMMA, I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL! POOR, POOR, ROGER! WHEN IS THE FUNERAL, DEAR?

T-THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE ANY FUNERAL. HIS BODY'S GOING TO THE MEDICAL SCHOOL!



TO WHERE? TO THE MEDICAL SCHOOL, DEAR! BUT WHEN I TOLD THEM HOW POOR I WAS, THEY AGREED TO GIVE ME THE \$50 THEY PAY FOR ALL CADA... CADA... BODIES!



YES, DEAR READER, IN THOSE DAYS LONG, LONG AGO, MEDICAL SCHOOLS WERE HARD PUT FOR AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF CADA...ER, CADA...BODIES. THUS, UNBEKNOWNST TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, THEY WERE HAPPY TO BUY CORPSES TO BE USED FOR EXPERIMENTATION...

SO POUNDS! BLIMEY! THAT'S A FORTUNE TO POOR PEOPLE LIKE US!

THAT'S EXACTLY THE WAY I FELT! I'M SURE ROGER WOULD HAVE WANTED IT THIS WAY!



LONG AFTER EMMA WENT HOME, MABEL STOOD IN THE KITCHEN, HER EYES FIXED ON THE EMPTY CUPBOARDS WHICH LINED THE WALL...

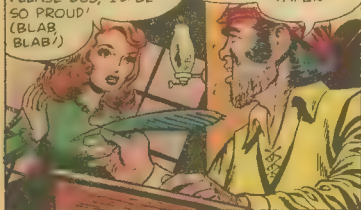
IF I HAD FIFTY POUNDS I COULD FILL THAT CUPBOARD WITH FOOD! I COULD LIVE FOR MONTHS, MAYBE EVEN A YEAR! M-MAYBE I CAN GET GUS TO WILL HIS BODY TO THE SCHOOL, TOO!



WHEN GUS AND PIERPONT RETURNED FROM HUNTING, MABEL IMMEDIATELY STARTED TO WORK ON HIM...

IT'S THE LEAST YOU CAN DO, GUS! THINK OF SCIENCE, THINK OF ALL THE GOOD YOU'D BE DOING! (BLAB, BLAB!) PLEASE GUS, I'D BE SO PROUD! (BLAB, BLAB!)

OH, FOR PETE SAKE, ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I'LL WILL THEM MY BODY-- ANYTHING TO SHUT YOU UP! GIMME A PIECE OF PAPER



BUT MABEL HAD EATEN ENOUGH DANDELION STEAKS AND AT DINNER SHE REFUSED TO EAT A MOUTHFUL, TCH, TCH, TCH, POOR GUS, HE'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF IF HE'D REFUSED TOO. AFTER TWO MOUTHFULS HE WAS DEAD.

G-GUS---GUS! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?



WITH GUS NEW WILL TUCKED SAFELY IN HER POCKET, MABEL STARTED DINNER...DANDELION STEAK. SHE HATED DANDELION STEAK-- AND WHO CAN BLAME HER? IT HAD BEEN THEIR STEADY DIET FOR A YEAR...

WE HAVEN'T HAD A PIECE OF MEAT IN A YEAR! I'M SICK OF DANDELIONS! SICK! SICK! SICK!

AW, HONEY, TAKE IT EASY, THESE ARE SPECIAL DANDELIONS! I GOT 'EM OVER BY THE LAKE WHERE THE CONSTRUCTION GANG'S WORKING!



BUT MABEL'S CRIES RECEIVED NO ANSWER. THE DOCTOR SAID THE DANDELIONS HAD BEEN POISONED.

YOU SAY HE GOT THE DANDELIONS OVER BY THE LAKE? POOR GUS, THE CONSTRUCTION GANG IS USING POWERFUL CHEMICALS--THAT'S WHY THE FLOWERS WERE POISONED.

OH, (SOB!) WHAT'LL I DO? WHAT'LL I DO?



BUT EVEN IN HER GRIEF (AND SHE WASN'T VERY GRIEVED) MABEL WAS SHREWD. SHE QUICKLY REMEMBERED GUS' WILL AND THAT NIGHT SHE DRAGGED HIS CADA...CADA...ER, BODY ACROSS THE FIELDS TO THE MEDICAL SCHOOL...

JUST ANOTHER (PUFF!) MILE AND I'LL BE RICH! WHEN I TELL THEM I'M POOR THEY'LL GIVE ME THE MONEY!



MABEL WON THE DOCTOR'S SYMPATHY AND HE COUNTED OUT THE MONEY FOR HER...

TCH, TCH, WELL, THAT'S HOW IT GOES, MRS LUBBARD. HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW! THERE WE ARE, MY DEAR, EXACTLY 50 POUNDS!

(SNIFF) THANK YOU, DOCTOR



AND THAT NIGHT SHE ATE...AND ATE...AND ATE! EVEN HER HATRED OF PIERPONT WAS FORGOTTEN AND SHE THREW THE STARVING DOG A BONE...

HERE, KIDDO, TONIGHT I CAN LIKE EVEN YOU! DON'T EVER SAY I NEVER GAVE YOU NOTHING!

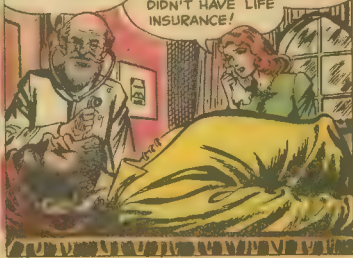
WOOF!



MABEL'S TRANSACTION WITH THE SCHOOL WAS ARRANGED WITH NO TROUBLE. EARLY ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

...AND YOU SAY HE WAS POISONED, MRS. LUBBARD?

YES, IT (SNIFF) WAS SO SAD! ALIVE ONE MINUTE, DEAD THE NEXT! AND HE DIDN'T HAVE LIFE INSURANCE!

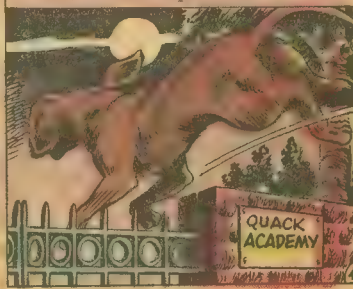


MABEL RUSHED BACK INTO TOWN AND SPENT EVERY LAST DIME IN STOCKING HER DEPLETED LARDER. IT TOOK THREE MEN AND A BOY TO DELIVER THE GOODS TO THE CABIN...

WHOOOOPPEEEEE!



BUT ALTHOUGH HE ATE HER FOOD, PIERPONT DIDN'T FORGET HIS DEAD MASTER. EVERY NIGHT, AFTER MABEL FELL INTO A GLUT-TONOUS SLEEP, THE DOG MADE HIS WAY TO THE TALL GATES OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL...



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